

Sports My Choice

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"Every Child Has A Chance"



Post Office Box 14562, Tallahassee, Florida 32317-4562
Lewis Thurston, CEO/Founder
850/422-3196
Affiliated with Vision of Manhood, Inc.

April 20, 2004

Leon County Commission
C/o Commissioner William Proctor
Tallahassee, FL

Dear County Commissioners,

This letter is to request your financial support to assist the Sports-My-Choice Tallahassee Eagles travel basketball program. The Tallahassee Eagles is a group of forty-one young men ranging in age from 10-16 years of age. The majority of these young men reside on the Southside of Tallahassee and have some social and educational issues. To assist these young men, our program provides them with positive role models and referrals to free tutorial programs. As a condition of participation, each participant has agreed to participate in a tutorial program of their choice if they fail to maintain grades acceptable to their parents/guardians.

Athletics are a great way to maintain health, promote self-esteem, and keep kids out of trouble. Sports can also be a means of getting an education that some kids would not have otherwise. Traveling sports programs can be costly to kids and their parents. Our program has two teams (14U & 13U) that have qualified for the United States Specialty Sports Association (USSSA) State Tournament in June of this year. A third team (15U) could qualify with strong showings in the upcoming events scheduled in Gainesville, Tampa, and Port St. Lucie, FL. Our goal is to take three teams to the National USSSA Championships in Ft. Wayne, In.

Please consider making a contribution of \$2,500 to Sports-My- Choice (EIN # 65-1204908). Your contribution will pay for the tournament registration for the Tampa and Port St. Lucie events and assist with the travel and lodging expenses for these trips. Please send your contribution to:

Sports-My-Choice
P.O. Box 14562
Tallahassee, FL 32317-4562

Thank you in advance for your time and consideration of our request. If you have any questions, please call Brian Smith at (850) 273-1303.

Sincerely,

Brian O. Smith
Director of Basketball Operations, Sports-My-Choice
Director, Tallahassee Eagles

Pending Approval
A Non-Profit 501(C)3 Organization

THE HISTORY

The Tallahassee Eagles' Boys Traveling Basketball Program was founded in Tallahassee in March of 2002 when the program director, Brian Smith, discovered that there were no local traveling basketball teams for boys under high school age. Smith discovered many of the boys in the Eagles program in a youth summer league that he directed in the summer of 2001.

The program was originally formed as the Tallahassee Wildcats in the 12 and under division of the Youth Basketball of America (YBOA) Association. In its first season, the team defeated two ranked teams in the state of Florida and finished in the top four of three invitation tournaments. As a result of one of these tournaments, one member of the team was invited to participate in a 10 and under Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) team and led his team to a 7th place finish in the 81 team National AAU Championships.

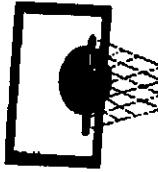
In October of 2002, the program changed its name to the Tallahassee Eagles. Entering into its second season, the Eagles soared to new heights with two boys' teams (a 12 and under team and a 13 and under team).

The Tallahassee Eagles are affiliated with a not-for-profit organization in Tallahassee called Sports-My-Choice. This organization was established for the purpose of assisting under privileged youth in Tallahassee in participating in organized sports.

THE 2004 SEASON

The Tallahassee Eagles participates as a member of the Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) and the United States Sports Specialty Association (USSSA). The program consist of three traveling teams, a 13 and under team, a 14 and under team, and a 15 and under team. Although there are three teams within the program, all teams will travel and participate in most of the same tournaments in their respective divisions.

Each team is comprised of no more than 15 players. Currently membership into the Tallahassee Eagles is by invitation only. Invitations are extended to those players who exemplify excellence in the skills and knowledge of basketball, have good character, and have a willingness to learn and work hard.



2004 SCHEDULE

March 26-28	USSSA Lakeland
April 2 - 4	USSSA Jacksonville
April 23 - 25	USSSA Gainesville
May 21-23	USSSA Tampa
May 28 - 30	USSSA Pt. St. Lucie
June 11 - 13	USSSA Gainesville *
July 2 - 4	USSSA Lake City
July 26 - Aug 1	USSSA Ft. Wayne, IN **

*State Tournament *National Tournament

Cost

A minimum fee is assessed to all players accepted into the Eagles' program. The fees include the cost of AAU and USSSA registration, insurance, and uniforms. Insurance covers individual players in sanctioned tournaments, practices, and some other non-sanctioned tournaments. Parents are expected to provide their child/children with spending money on trips. Other funds for the program are obtained through fundraisers and contributions. All team members are required to participate in fundraising activities.

Since the Tallahassee Eagles is affiliated with Sport-My-Choice, a not for profit organization in Tallahassee, contributions made to this organization on behalf of the Eagles are tax deductible.



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13 & Under and 14 & Under Teams Wins
Jacksonville Shootout!

ABOUT THE EAGLES

EAGLES' ACCOMPLISHMENTS

2002

The Tallahassee Eagles' Youth Basketball Program was developed to give talented young male basketball players in the Tallahassee area some directions in athletics as well as to develop good character.

The program realizes that athletics is a great way to maintain health, promote self-esteem, and keep children out of trouble. Sports can also be a means of getting the education that some children would not have otherwise. It is with this intent that the program expects its participants not only to soar on the basketball court but also in school and in the community as well.

It is a privilege to be a part of such an organization but traveling athletics is not for everyone. The Tallahassee Eagles, as do most programs, compete in a very competitive environment. This privilege comes with corresponding responsibilities such as self-discipline, hard work, and unselfishness. Playing time will not be guaranteed. It must be earned.

The Tallahassee Eagles welcomes and encourages parent participation. Good parent participation is extremely important to a traveling youth athletic team.

TALLAHASSEE

EAGLES

YOUTH BASKETBALL PROGRAM

2003

1st Place - Live Oak Police Athletic League Tournament

4th Place - Jupiter Jam Invitational (YBOA)

2nd Place - Auburndale Summerfest Invitational (YBOA)
2nd Place - Lake City Shootout

1st Place - West Coast Qualifier (YBOA, 12 & Under)

1st Place - West Coast Hoopsters Classic (YBOA, 12 & Under)

3rd Place - West Coast Hoopsters Classic (YBOA, 13 & Under)

1st Place - Lake City Shootout Invitational (USSSA, 13 & Under)

2nd Place - Lake City Back to School Shootout (13 & Under)

For further information,
please contact Brian Smith at:
(850) 273-1303
or
smith@TallahasseeEagles.net

You may also visit our website at:
www.TallahasseeEagles.net

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Soaring Above the Rim



Eagles Win Championship (twice) !!!

Jacksonville Shootout

On April 2nd - 4th, the Tallahassee Eagles participated in the Jacksonville Shootout, a State Qualifier sanctioned by USSSA. The 13 & under captured the championship by defeating the Jacksonville Trojans 65-50. The Eagles were led by Jakari Bush, Morris Riley, Kelvin Derrico, Alex Williams, Darrius Redding, and George Robinson. The 14 & under team won the championship by defeating the Gainesville Runnin Rattlers, the defending USSSA State Champions 93-88. The Eagles were led by Bryan Harris, Ameer Brown, Anthony Salter, Melvin Ray, and Santuan McGee. The 15 & under turned in a strong showing by finishing in the quarter finals.